

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 ITFE-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

UNCLAS GENEVA 6435

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF UNHCR TH

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN THAILAND

UNHCR HAS FURNISHED TEXT OF MESSAGE SENT TO HCR REP NEW
YORK. TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

1. UNHCR TEAMS HAVE NOW VISITED ALL CAMPS OF DISPLACED
PERSONS FROM CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM AS WELL AS
ASSESSED SITUATION OF THAIDAM AND ETHNIC LAO GROUPS.

2. FOLLOWING SIGNING WITH THAI GOVERNMENT
FOR ASSISTANCE IN THAILAND (SEE PRESS RELEASE
REF/1222 OF 1 AUG) UNHCR TEAMS VISITED AREAS IN NORTH
OF THAILAND TO ASSESS SITUATION AND NEEDS OF MEOS FROM
LAOS OF WHICH DETAILS FOLLOW.

3. UNHCR MISSION TO NAN RPT NAN PROVINCE WHERE GROUPS
OF MEAOS, YAOS AND LAO THEUNG CONCENTRATED IN SOB THUANG,
MAECHARIM DISTRICT AND IN SMALL TOWNSHIP OF PUA RPT PUA.
LATTER ARE PRINCIPALLY MEOS.

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4. SOB THUANG IS VERY ISOLATED AND AT MOMENT ONLY

REACHABLE BY HELICOPTER. A SERVICE TRACK IS PLANNED IN NEXT FEW WEEKS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE MOVE GOOD BY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES. PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES ARE ORGANIZING SERIS OF SMALL VILLAGES FOR THESE LAOTIANS WHO HAVE ALREADY BUILT SIMPLE HOUSING FOR TRADITIONAL MATERIALS. SIMPLE 30-BED HEALTH CENTER HAS BEEN SET UP TO TREAT MALNUTRITION, DIARRHEA AND MALARIA CASES. MEDICAL TEAM FOR NAN VISITS AREA ONCE WEEKLY WHILE THAI MEDICAL ASSISTANT IS PERMANENTLY PRESENT. IMMEDIATE RELIEF NEEDS ARE COLON RICE, SOLID BUILDING MATERIALS, COOKING UTENSILS, BLANKETS, MOSQUITO NETS, CABLES FOR PONTOON OR SUSPENSION BRIDGES.

5. IN PUA SITUATION IS UNSATISFACTORY AND IT IS PLANNED TO MOVE LAOTIANS TO BETTER LOCATION WITHIN NEXT TWO MONTHS. NEEDS OF GROUP ARE COLON RICE, EXTENSION OF WATER SUPPLY AND ELECTRICITY, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, SHELTER BUILDING MATERIAL.

6. UNHCR MISSION TO KHON KAEN PROVINCE. MEOS CONCENTRATED IN NAM-PHONG AND NONG KHAI AREAS. AT NAM-PHONG SITUATION IS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY. PERSONS LODGED IN ARMY BARRACKS, FOOD AND HEALTH CONDITIONS BETTER THAN OTHER GROUPS OF MEO ALTHOUGH SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE STILL NEEDED. DETAILS BEING WORKED OUT AND BEING SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT. AT NONG KHAI SITUATION IS MOST UNSATSFACTORY AND NEEDS URGENT MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT FOOD AND HEALTH SITUATION.

7. IMMEDIATE STEPS ALSO PLANNED FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICAMENTS AGAINST MALARIA AND CHOLERA. LAST WEEK UNHCR ALSO CHANNELED YMCA MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO BE HANDLED BY THAI MEDICAL TEAMS IN NORTHERN AREAS.

8. FIRST INSTALLMENT OF DOLS 500,000 PROVIDED BY UNHCR AND WHICH ALREADY AVAILABLE TO GOVERNMENT IN ORDER IMPROVE FOOD SITUATION MAINLY THROUGH PURCHASE OF RICE LOCALLY IN NORTH THAILAND FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION TO NEEDY AREAS. THIS CONNECTION PLEASE NOTE RO BANGKOK INFORMED U.S. EMBASSY SOME 2,000 TONS GLUTUNOUS RICE READILY AVAILABLE. HQ AUTHORIZED RO TO GO AHEAD. HOWEVER LEARNED SUBSEQUENTLY THAT ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD APPROACHED UNHCR, WASHINGTON AUTHORIZATION WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE TO IT FOR RELEASE OF THIS STOCK.

9. ALTHOUGH WE NOT SUGGESTING ANY SPECIFIC ACTION BY YOU RE ABOVE PARAS, WE EXPECT REVERT ONCE MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE. HHHQQQ AND RRROOO KEEPING LOCAL MISSIONS FULLY INFORMED. IT SHOULD BE APPRECIATED THAT WITHIN COUNTRY CONCERNED THERE IS NEED COORDINATION PROVINCIAL AND CENTRAL AUTHORITIES AND WHETHER ASSISTANCE BILATERAL OR MULTI-LATERAL CANNOT HAVE OPTIMAL EFFECT WITHOUT FULL LOCAL COOPERATION ON WHICH UNHCR IS ASSIDUOUSLY WORKING.

10. RASANAYAGAM HAS KEPTFULLY INFORMED U.S. EMBASSY REFUGEE OFFICER MEYERS RPT MEYERS JUST TRANSFERRED WASHINGTON WHERE UNDERSTAND WILL BE DESKING PARTICULARLY PROBLEMS IN THAILAND. MEANWHILE NEW UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE DR. BERTA ARRIVED BANGKOK AND WILL CALL ON VARIOUS KEY EMBASSIES INCLUDING U.S. SOONEST. UNQUOTE. DALE

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